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To: Examiner F. Ferris, III, Art Unit 2128	FROM: Thomas L. Evans
COMPANY: U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	DATE: November 14, 2005
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YOUR REFERENCE No.: U.S. Pat. App. No. 09/841,974	OUR REFERENCE (C/M) No.: 003921.00011
RE: Amendment	
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NAME: Tom Evans	PHONE: (503) 279-6330
COMMENTS:	

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Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Thomas L. Evans, PTO Reg. No. 35,805
BANNER AND WITCOFF, LTD.

Atty. Docket No.
003921.00011

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent of:

Terry Lee GOODE

Examiner: F. Ferris

U.S. Pat. App. No.: 09/841,974

Group Art Unit: 2128

Filing Date: April 24, 2001

For: EMULATOR WITH SWITCHING NETWORK CONNECTIONS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicant respectfully asks for reconsideration of both this application and the final Office Action dated August 12, 2005.

Applicant again gratefully thanks the Examiner for the personal interview granted with the undersigned on April 19, 2005. In response to the Examiner's comments at the beginning of the outstanding Office Action, the undersigned respectfully submits that he sincerely believed the Amendment of May 12, 2005, to be in accordance with the substance of that interview, as will be

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explained below.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-24 again were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over EPO Patent Application No. EP 1 043 662 A1 to Boles in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,377,911 to Sample et al., in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,503 to Okazaki et al. Applicant courteously repeats his traversal of this rejection, and asks for its reconsideration.

Claims 1-7 and 14-19 are directed to an emulator that serializes and then deserializes data to transfer that data from a first logic device to a second logic device during a circuit emulation process. To further emphasize the subject matter of these claims (as distinguished from the subject matter of the Boles, Sample et al. and Okazaki et al. patent documents), claims 1-7 and 14-19 were previously amended to recite that the first programmable logic device is configured to emulate a first partition of a circuit, and the second programmable logic device is configured to emulate a second partition of the circuit. Claims 8-13 and 20-24 similarly recite a method of emulating a circuit by serializing and then deserializing data transferred from a first logic device to a second logic device during the circuit emulation process. Applicants again submit that no combination of the Boles application, the Sample et al. patent and the Okazaki et al. patent would teach or suggest these features of the invention.

Simply put, none of the Boles, Sample et al. or Okazaki et al. patent documents teaches or suggests using the recited serializer, cross point switch and deserializer to actually emulate a circuit. For example, the portion of the Sample et al. patent relied upon by the Examiner is directed to the initial configuration of programmable gate arrays so that these arrays can later be used to perform an emulation process. It does not teach or suggest the use of a serializer or

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deserializer during the emulation process itself (i.e., once the programmable gate arrays have been configured). Similarly, the portion of the Okazaki et al. patent relied upon by the Examiner discusses the difficulties in initially configuring an emulation circuit as a circuit design changes. This portion of the Okazaki et al. also does not address the use of such a switch in an emulation process after the emulation circuits have been properly configured. The Boles application is then completely unrelated to an emulation process, and instead discusses a generalized technique for allowing a function circuit 12 to have access to multiple pin locations at point P1 and P2.

Accordingly, Applicant again respectfully submits that no combination of the Boles application, the Sample et al. patent and the Okazaki et al. patent would teach or suggest these features of the invention recited in any of claims 1-24. In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner suggested that Applicant had impermissibly attacked each reference individually in the previous Amendment. Applicant respectfully submit that Applicant is simply pointing out that none of the cited references teaches or suggests a feature of the invention recited in each of claims 1-24. It is therefore again urged that the rejection of these claims over the combination of the Boles application, the Sample et al. patent and the Okazaki et al. patent be withdrawn.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees that may be necessary to maintain the pendency of this application, including any fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17, to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims are allowable, and that this application therefore is in condition for allowance. Applicant courteously asks for favorable

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action regarding this Amendment at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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November 14, 2005